

Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families
5 October 2017
Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Howard Mooney, Janice Agazio, Alison Buckley, Craig Porterfield, Wanda Riddle, Bob Moore, Michael Blum, Jonathan Branch GUESTS: Tracy L. Adkins (Active Duty, Military Spouse)

The meeting was called to order at 1902 by Howard. Meeting minutes were reviewed, no discussion or corrections. Minutes were approved by Wanda, seconded by Michael. Future commission dates were discussed. The next meeting was moved to 9 November which is the second Thursday. The other meetings are December 7, which is usually our social gathering, January 4 and February 1.

Howard discussed the update of the commission brochure that Lisa is working on. Wanda discussed the Dental Screening held in Laurel in September. The update on the Howard County Public School Resource Guide was discussed by Tracy. Howard High has been established as the target school for Veteran's Day presentation.

The commission budget for FY 2018 was discussed. Bob will put together a budget. Recruitment of new commission members was discussed. Howard mentioned that anyone who is interested in becoming a commission member must submit a resume. A copy of it goes to David Lee.

Bob Lowell is working on a Veterans Treatment Court Initiative, no update as of this meeting. It is still ongoing. The veteran's monument was updated. The project does have a CPA now. A marker for the site of the monument should be in place by veteran's day. Tracy had some information regarding an artist that we should consider getting a bid from. Bob Gillette is also working on the capital project for the monument.

Letters of Appreciation are being created for Greg Fitchitt (Howard Hughes Corporation) and Milton Matthews (Columbia Association) The criteria for commission community service awards was discussed by Wanda. Greg and Wanda are working on this project. The founder of Mission Barbecue will address Leadership Howard on 17 November. Wanda proposed giving them their award from the commission at that time. Wanda stated that the commission needs to look at the purpose and the criteria for awards. A discussion followed.

Alison discussed the Holiday Party at the FriscoTap House on Dobbin Road on 7 December. Spouses and significant others are invited. Howard announced that Chris was injured in a bike accident and is in the hospital.

Wanda gave a report regarding the flag retirement ceremony. 400 flags were retired. Over 2000 have been retired to date. The Veterans Fair is being scheduled for April 10th. Lisa has proposed that we combine our fair with Anne Arundel County

Howard reviewed all the events going on for Veterans Day. Wanda mentioned the ceremony for the replacement of the Blue Star plaque in Ellicott City that was washed away by the flood.

16 October, the commission has been asked to testify for veterans to have preference for businesses. Howard says that he plans to testify.

Tracy mentioned that she is doing a "yellow ribbon tree" in Annapolis at the Naval Academy and is willing to do one for Howard County. Michael also discussed guidelines for teachers for Veteran's day. Operation Gratitude was also briefly discussed.

Submitted by Jonathan K. Branch

